

REMARKS**Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-27, 29-33, 40-44, 46-53, 55-62, and 64-66 are currently present in the Application, and claims 1, 12, 23, 40, 49, and 58 are independent claims. In this Response, claims 40, 46, 49, 55, 58, and 64 have been amended, and claims 45, 54, and 63 have been canceled.

Allowed Claims

Claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-27, and 29-33 are allowed. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 45, 46, 54, 55, 63, and 64 are rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In order to expedite prosecution of the present Application, Applicants have amended independent claim 40 to include limitations previously found in dependent claim 45, and have therefore canceled claim 45. Similarly, Applicants have amended independent claims 49 and 58 to include limitations previously found in dependent claims 54 and 63, respectively, and have therefore canceled claim 54 and 63. Based on these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 40, 49, and 58, and the claims which depend from them, are allowable, and respectfully request that they be passed to allowance.

Claim Rejections - Alleged Anticipation Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 40-42, 47-51, 56-60, and 65-66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Dumas, U.S. Patent No. 6,778,647 (hereinafter Dumas). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

As noted above, Applicants have amended independent claim 40 to include limitations previously found in dependent claim 45, and have therefore canceled claim 45. Similarly, Applicants have amended independent claims 49 and 58 to include limitations previously found in dependent claims 54 and 63, respectively, and have therefore canceled claim 54 and 63. Based on these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are now moot.

Claim Rejections – Alleged Obviousness Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 43-44, 52-53, and 61-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dumas in view of Fraser, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0047453 (hereinafter Fraser). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

As noted above, Applicants have amended independent claim 40 to include limitations previously found in dependent claim 45, and have therefore canceled claim 45. Similarly, Applicants have amended independent claims 49 and 58 to include limitations previously found in dependent claims 54 and 63, respectively, and have therefore canceled claim 54 and 63. Based on these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are now moot.

Conclusion

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an early allowance of such claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney listed below if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining questions or issues related to this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Leslie A. Van Leeuwen, Reg. No. 42,196/

Leslie A. Van Leeuwen, Reg. No. 42,196

Van Leeuwen & Van Leeuwen

Attorneys for Applicant

Telephone: (512) 301-6738

Facsimile: (512) 301-6742